

# 3-D paper bills, commemoratives targeted for '85

By Roger Boye

**T**he new year promises excitement for coin and currency buffs, thanks in large part to Uncle Sam. Here's what to watch for in 1985.

● **Revamped designs for U.S. paper money.** The Reagan administration may decide as early as next spring to add muted colors or three-dimensional optical devices to currency in an attempt to thwart amateur counterfeiters.

For months, government technicians have studied those and other possible changes that would make the familiar "greenbacks" difficult to duplicate on sophisticated color-copying machines. Experts warn that by the 1990s, such copiers may be as common as the black-and-white machines are today, tempting millions of Americans to become overnight con artists.

Bills denominated from \$5 to \$100 may get a bigger overhaul than the \$1 or \$2 notes, officials say. The new currency would begin circulating about 12 months after Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan approves specific changes.

Meanwhile, Treasury chiefs may seek funding from Congress next year to build a second printing plant on the West Coast. At present, Uncle Sam produces paper money and postage stamps at a single site in Washington, just five blocks from the White House.

● **New commemorative coinage.** With the Olympic coin program ending on Jan. 18, several promoters are calling for new commemoratives to honor their pet projects. For example, a congressman from California wants the U.S. Mint to churn out special pieces marking the 75th anniversaries of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

A more likely subject for silver or gold coinage would be the 1986 centennial of the Statue of Liberty, say most experts. Production of such pieces could begin by year's end if Congress approves the appropriate legislation early enough in 1985. Presumably, part of the proceeds from coin sales would support the statue repair project.

● **A ban on the importation of South African Krugerrands** [a one-ounce gold coin]. Congress almost approved such a ban this year and several lawmakers may introduce similar legislation in 1985. The ban would protest South Africa's apartheid racial policies.

● **Rare coin sales.** Several major hoards will go on the auction block during the new year, such as the collection of Los Angeles millionaire Jerry H. Buss on Jan. 28-30. Buss, owner of three professional sports teams, has amassed a fabulous collection that includes one of five known 1913 Liberty nickels and one of 24 minted 1894-S dimes.